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Adventure

COMICS

featuring **SUPERBOY** and the
LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

JAN.
NO. 328

Featuring: "The **LAD WHO
WRECKED the LEGION!**"

WHY ARE YOU
ATTACKING
ULTRA BOY
AND ME? WE'RE
YOUR **FRIENDS!**

FRIENDS... BAH! I HAVEN'T
EVEN STARTED! FIRST,
I'LL FINISH YOU OFF,
MON-EL, AND THEN I'LL
TAKE CARE OF ALL THE
OTHER **LEGIONNAIRES!**



TALES OF THE LEGION of SUPER-HEROES

THE LEGIONNAIRE MEMBERS OF THE **SUPER-HERO CLUB** OF THE 30TH CENTURY ARE MIGHTY INDEED! THE INHABITANTS OF THOUSANDS OF PLANETS RESPECT THESE GALLANT TEEN-AGERS WHO HAVE DEDICATED THEIR TREMENDOUS POWERS TO THE DEFEAT OF EVIL ANYWHERE IN THE COSMOS! BUT ONE DAY A NEW MEMBER JOINS THE RANKS OF THE **LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES**. HE IS SENSATIONAL, ALL RIGHT... PERHAPS EVEN **TOO MUCH SO!** FOR OVERNIGHT, **COMMAND KID** BECOMES...
THE LAD WHO WRECKED THE LEGION!

TERRIFIC, COMMAND KID! THAT CIRCLE OF FIRE YOU'VE PLACED ABOUT THOSE CROOKS HAS FRIGHTENED THEM SO MUCH THEY'RE TOSSING DOWN THEIR WEAPONS AND SURRENDERING! YOU'RE A GREAT LEGIONNAIRE!

CORRECTION! I'M THE **GREATEST** LEGIONNAIRE! MY POWER TO COMMAND **HALLUCINATIONS** IS SUPERB!

HE'S GOT THE BIGGEST MOUTH, THAT'S WHAT! I'M FED UP WITH THAT BLOWHARD!

SCIENCE
POLICE
H. Q.

DID WE MAKE A MISTAKE, TAKING **COMMAND KID** INTO THE LEGION? HE'S DOING A SPLENDID JOB, BUT HIS CONCEIT IS HURTING **LEGION MORALE!**

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ADVENTURE COMICS, No. 328, Jan., 1965. Published monthly by NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC., 2nd & Dickey Streets, SPARTA, ILL. Editorial, Executive offices and Subscriptions, 575 LEXINGTON AVENUE, NEW YORK 22, N.Y. Mort Weisinger, Editor. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT SPARTA, ILL. under the act of March 3, 1879. Yearly subscription in the U.S., \$1.40 including postage. Foreign, \$2.80 in American funds. Canada, \$1.70 in American funds. For advertising rates address Richard A. Feldon & Co., 205 East 42nd

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Printed in U.S.A.

IN THE CLUBHOUSE OF THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES IN THE 30TH CENTURY...

FASCINATING! THIS ANCESTOR-VISUALIZER MACHINE SOME FRIENDLY ALIENS GAVE US IS SENSATIONAL, **SUN BOY**! THE FACES OF ALL MY ANCESTORS ARE BEING PROJECTED FROM MY SUPRACONSCIOUS MIND ONTO THE SCREEN!



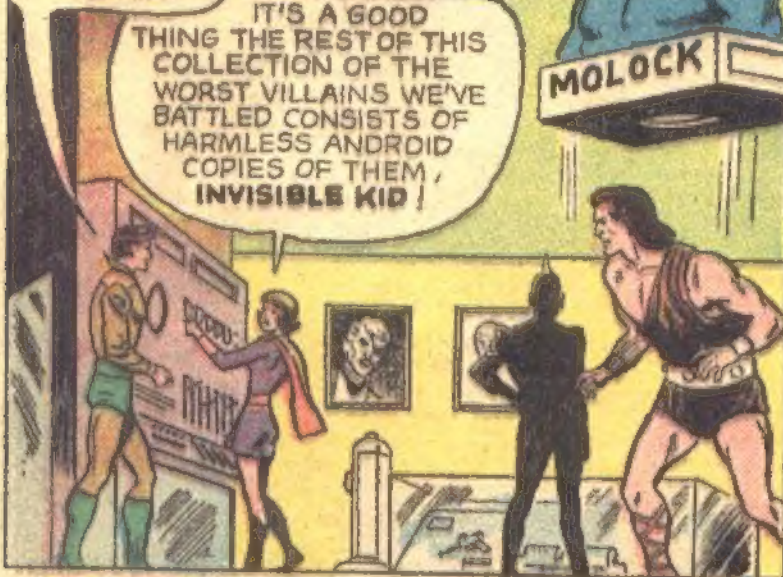
YOU'RE A SWELL GUY, **COSMIC BOY**... BUT I'D SURE HATE TO MEET SOME OF YOUR PRIMEVAL ANCESTORS IN A DARK ALLEY!

MEANWHILE, IN A CHAMBER OF THE SUPER-HERO SANCTUM...

PUTTING THE FINISHING TOUCHES ON THE **ROGUE ROOM**, EH, **TRIPPLICATE GIRL**? I SEE YOU'RE ADJUSTING THE ANTI-GRAVITY RAY THAT KEEPS **MOLOCK**'S BUST IN THE AIR.



IT'S A GOOD THING THE REST OF THIS COLLECTION OF THE WORST VILLAINS WE'VE BATTLED CONSISTS OF HARMLESS ANDROID COPIES OF THEM, **INVISIBLE KID**!



"**ZARYAN**", WHOM I REPRESENT, WAS SO TERRIBLE, HE SUCCEEDED IN KILLING **LIGHTNING LAD**!

BIG DEAL! **LIGHTNING LAD** WAS BROUGHT TO LIFE AGAIN! THE VILLAIN I'M FASHIONED AFTER-- "**JUNGLE KING**"-- ALMOST DESTROYED THE LEGION WITH MONSTERS HE COMMANDED!



(CHUCKLE)--THEY'RE ARGUING OVER WHICH VILLAIN WAS THE MIGHTIER!

MINUTES LATER, IN ANOTHER ROOM...

BEHOLD THE PROJECT I JUST COMPLETED! A **CELESTIAL CHAMBER** CONTAINING ROTATING, ACCURATE MODELS OF THE PLANETS THE LEGIONNAIRES CAME FROM ORIGINALLY!

THERE'S MY WORLD... **CARGG**! AND **SHRINKING VIOLET**'S HOME PLANET, **IMSK**! EACH WORLD HAS ITS NAME AND THE FACE OF THE APPROPRIATE LEGIONNAIRE ON IT!



SIMULTANEOUSLY, **SUPERBOY** HAS A VISITOR IN THE MAIN LABORATORY...

HI! BEING IN THE **LEGION RESERVE** IS BETTER THAN NOTHING, BUT I SURE MISS THE DAYS I WAS A FULL-FLEDGED LEGIONNAIRE, BEFORE I LOST MY SUPER-POWER ACCIDENTALLY!



I'VE A SURPRISE FOR YOU, **BOUNCING BOY**!

WHEE! I CAN BOUNCE AGAIN! THAT MYSTERY RAY HAS RETURNED MY BOUNCING ABILITY! THANKS A ZILLION!

UNFORTUNATELY, IT'LL WORK FOR JUST A FEW MOMENTS!

THEN, AS THE PAUNCHY FORM BECOMES SLENDER AGAIN...

CHOKE... YOU'RE RIGHT! MY BOUNCING POWER IS... GONE AGAIN! IF ONLY IT WORKED PERMANENTLY!

SO LONG, BOUNCING BOY! DON'T GIVE UP HOPE! MAYBE WE'LL BE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH THAT FOR YOU SOMEDAY!

PRESENTLY, IN THE MAIN CLUBROOM...

HEY, LOOK! OUR MONITOR IS SIGNALLING A DANGER-ALERT! OH-OH! SOME ROBBERS ARE RACING WITH THEIR LOOT TOWARD A GETAWAY ROCKET-CAR! LET'S GO, LEGIONNAIRES!

WAIT! A COSTUMED YOUTH HAS LEAPED IN AND IS POINTING COMMANDINGLY AT THEIR VEHICLE!

YAA! OUR ROCKETMOBILE TURNED INTO A FEROCIOUS MONSTER! RUN!!... AWP! SCIENCE COPS ARE CLOSING IN ON US FROM EVERYWHERE!

WE SURRENDER!!!

GASP! THE ROCKET-CAR DIDN'T TURN INTO A MONSTER! POLICE AREN'T SWARMING ALL AROUND! THERE'S ONLY ONE EXPLANATION!

THAT BOY, WHOEVER HE IS, OUTWITTED THE CROOKS BY CREATING HALLUCINATIONS THAT TRICKED THEM INTO SURRENDERING! HE'S TERRIFIC! OUR COMRADES WHO ARE AWAY ON MISSIONS WOULD HAVE ENJOYED SEEING THIS!



ADVENTURE COMICS



AS THE LEGIONNAIRES STREAK TO THE SCENE, SOME GENUINE POLICE ARRIVE AND ARREST THE CRIMINALS...

YOU WERE GREAT! WHO ARE YOU, FELLA?

YOU MAY CALL ME... **COMMAND KID**! I'M FROM THE PLANET **PREZTOR** AND HAVE THE ABILITY TO CREATE **HYPNOTIC HALLUCINATIONS**!



WONDERFUL! WE HAVE SUPER-POWERS, TOO! HOW DID YOU GET **YOURS**? WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN OUR **LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES**?

HOW I GOT MY UNUSUAL ABILITY IS **MY SECRET**! AS FOR THE "**LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES**"... WHAT'S THAT?



DOGGONE IT! WON'T THEY EVER FINISH "**GALAXYLAND**"?

WE'RE A GROUP OF TEEN-AGERS WHO'VE Banded TOGETHER AND VOWED TO USE OUR AMAZING POWERS TO FIGHT EVIL AND DO GOOD DEEDS! ... COME ON, **ULTRA BOY** AND **MON-EL**! WE'LL SHOW HIM WHAT I MEAN!

OKAY, **SUPERBOY**!



ASTOUNDING! THEY'RE COMPLETING, IN MERE MINUTES, WHAT IT WOULD'VE TAKEN ORDINARY WORKERS **MONTHS** TO DO!

GREAT!... BECAUSE UNFORESEEN DIFFICULTIES HAVE DELAYED OUR CONSTRUCTION OF THAT AMUSEMENT PARK! THOSE THREE LADS ARE THE MIGHTIEST OF THE LEGIONNAIRES!



VERY SHORTLY...

HA, HA! WE DID IT!

HOORAY FOR THE **LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES**!... WILL WE HAVE **FUN**!!! TOO BAD IT'S SO AWFULLY HOT TODAY, **LIGHTNING LAD**!!!

COMING UP... ANOTHER GOOD DEED!

GAASP!... **LIGHTNING BOLTS** ARE CRASHING UP INTO THE SKY FROM YOUR FINGERTIPS! NO WONDER YOU'RE CALLED **LIGHTNING LAD**!!!



PRESENTLY...

!!... **LIGHTNING** CAUSED **CLOUDS** TO FORM IN THE SKY, SCREENING THE **BLAZING SUN**! IT'S MUCH COOLER, NOW!

HA, HA! AND ON **COLD** DAYS, I, **SUN BOY**, CAN WARM THINGS UP!





WE'D BE HONORED TO HAVE YOU JOIN THE LEGION, **COMMAND KID**! HOW ABOUT IT?

HM-MM... I BELIEVE I COULD BE A VALUABLE ADDITION TO YOUR RANKS! I ACCEPT!

MODESTY ISN'T ONE OF HIS VIRTUES!

SOON, IN A COLORFUL CEREMONY...

"... FURTHERMORE, I PROMISE TO USE MY SUPER-POWER ONLY FOR GOOD, WITHOUT EXPECTING FINANCIAL REWARD, AND I PLEDGE TO DO MY BEST TO AID FELLOW LEGIONNAIRES WHO ARE IN PERIL!"

YOU ARE NOW ONE OF US, **COMMAND KID**! WELCOME TO THE **SUPER-HERO CLUB, LEGIONNAIRE**!!

RAPIDLY, THE LEGION'S NEWEST MEMBER DISTINGUISHES HIMSELF ADMIRABLY...

HA, HA! THE **INTERPLANETARY CRIME SYNDICATE** WILL REWARD US WELL AFTER WE WIPE OUT **SCIENCE POLICE HEADQUARTERS** IN A SNEAK-ATTACK!

ALIEN VILLAINS, EH? I'LL GIVE YOU A **WARM RECEPTION**!

YEEEEEE-AAAGHH!— THAT FLYING FREAK HAS SURROUNDED US IN A CIRCLE OF F-FLAMES, AND IT'S CLOSING IN ON US! **WE GIVE UP!!!**

THAT'S MOST OBLIGING ... AND SENSIBLE ... OF YOU!

THEY DON'T KNOW THE FLAMES ARE A HARMLESS ILLUSION!

NEXT DAY, AT THE **SCIENCE POLICE ACADEMY**, COMMISSIONER WILSON MAKES A MASS PRESENTATION ...

IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO AWARD EACH LEGIONNAIRE A **DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ARM-BAND** IN GRATITUDE FOR YOUR CLUB'S MANY WONDERFUL EFFORTS IN BEHALF OF LAW AND ORDER!

THANK YOU, SIR!

I'M THRILLED!

BUT, BEFORE THE COMMISSIONER CAN GIVE **COMMAND KID** HIS AWARD ...

KEEP IT! I DON'T WANT IT!

YOU... DON'T?!!



NAH! WHAT DO I NEED THAT JUNK FOR? MEDALS AND TROPHIES AND ALL SO-CALLED "DECORATIONS OF HONOR" ARE IDIOTIC TRASH! MY SUPER-SERVICES ARE PRICELESS! SO DON'T "PAY" ME WITH WORTHLESS TRINKETS! GOODBYE!



I'M SORRY THAT HAPPENED, COMMISSIONER! THOUGH **COMMAND KID** IS A GREAT LEGIONNAIRE, HE'S HARD TO UNDERSTAND, AT TIMES!

AND HARD TO TAKE, TOO!

THAT WAS TERRIBLY RUDE OF **COMMAND KID**!



LATER, AT THE **LEGION CLUBHOUSE**...

SO YOU DON'T LIKE DECORATIVE "JUNK", EH? WHAT ABOUT ALL OUR FABULOUS **LEGION** TROPHIES? DO YOU THINK THAT'S RUBBISH, ALSO?

I WON'T ANSWER THAT, IF YOU DON'T MIND!

WHAT INSOLENCE! I HOPE WE WON'T BE SORRY WE TOOK **COMMAND KID** INTO THE **LEGION**!



SOON AFTER...

COMMAND KID SURE IS STUCK ON HIMSELF!

HMMPH!

AND HE HAS A TERRIBLE TEMPER!

SO **SHRINKING VIOLET** THINKS I'VE GOT A BAD TEMPER, EH? I'LL SHOW HER WHAT A **REALLY** BAD TEMPER IS!

SUDDENLY, THREE FIGURES STREAK DOWN FROM THE SKY...

HERE COME **ULTRA BOY**, **SUPERBOY** AND **MON-EL**, BACK FROM THEIR PATROL OF EARTH.

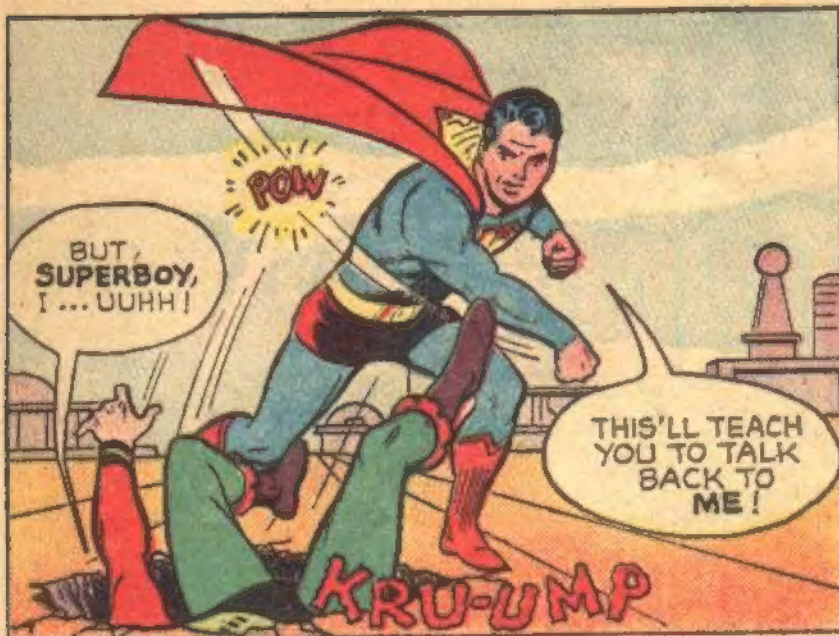
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BITE MY HEAD OFF! I WAS MERELY ASKING...

YOU'RE ASKING FOR A PUNCH IN THE JAW, AND I'M JUST THE GUY WHO CAN GIVE IT TO YOU!

YOU'VE BEEN MIGHTY QUIET, **SUPERBOY**! WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!





THE LEGION OUTPOST

Dear Editor: Happy Anniversary! The Legion stories started in ADVENTURE in the September, 1962, issue, just two years ago. I have every issue since they started and I think they're great! —Jenny Franklin, Long Island City, N.Y.

(Thanks! If it weren't for legions of others like you, the Legion wouldn't be here to celebrate an anniversary!—Ed.)

Dear Editor: I want to be a good loser and congratulate you on "The Legion of Super-Outlaws!" Your choice was excellent! Duplicate Boy is double good; Beast Boy makes me feel like a bird; Evolve Lad makes my brain tingle; Gas Girl makes me feel light as air; and Life Lass is as lively as they come! I have to admit I felt bad when I found out my suggestion wasn't used, but I'd like to congratulate the fans who thought up the Heroes of Lallor. —Michael E. Colby, Hewlett Bay Park, L.I., N.Y.

(And after such a warm reception for our story, we could never *be cold* to Colby!—Ed.)

Dear Editor: You've stated that Supergirl and Superboy need secret identities to protect their families. But the Legionnaires can't have secret identities because they spend much of their time in the clubhouse and sometimes go on month-long missions. Please explain how they protect their relatives, in a down-to-earth way. —Jere Link, Mobile, Ala.

(Some of the Legionnaires, such as Element Lad,

are orphans. But the rest have equipped their parents' homes with warning devices similar to those used to guard the Legion Clubhouse.—Ed.)

Dear Editor: "The Legion of Super-Outlaws" was terrific! I never thought I'd see the day when Shrinking Violet would fall in love. By the way, does she ever smile? She looks sad all the time. —Linda D. Griffin, Norfolk, Va.

(We have a feeling that Shrinking Violet will be smiling a lot more now that she's in love.—Ed.)

Dear Editor: In ADVENTURE No. 325, you show Mon-El wearing a flying belt. But I thought he could fly under his own power. Please explain this to me. —Edwin Manguiat, Oakland, Calif.

(How's this? —Mon-El took another Legionnaire's flying belt out to get it repaired, and decided to test it on the way back. That could explain why he wore it, even though he didn't need it.—Ed.)

Dear Editor: "In ADVENTURE No. 324, you show Star Boy being knocked out by Gas Girl. Since he has the power of making anything super-heavy, why didn't he make Gas Girl so heavy that she would sink to the ground? —Steve Spickler, Bellevue, Wash.

(Star Boy never dreamed she could turn herself into knockout gas. Otherwise, he'd probably have done as you suggest.—Ed.)



TALES OF THE LEGION of SUPER-HEROES

YES, COMMAND KID MAY BE AN EFFECTIVE LEGIONNAIRE, BUT THERE ARE DRAWBACKS! ONE, HE IS SECRETIVE ABOUT HIS ORIGIN!... **WHY?** TWO, HE IS ARROGANT AND CONCEITED! BUT IS THIS ALL? OR IS THERE UNKNOWN DANGER FOR THE OTHER SUPER-HEROES IN...

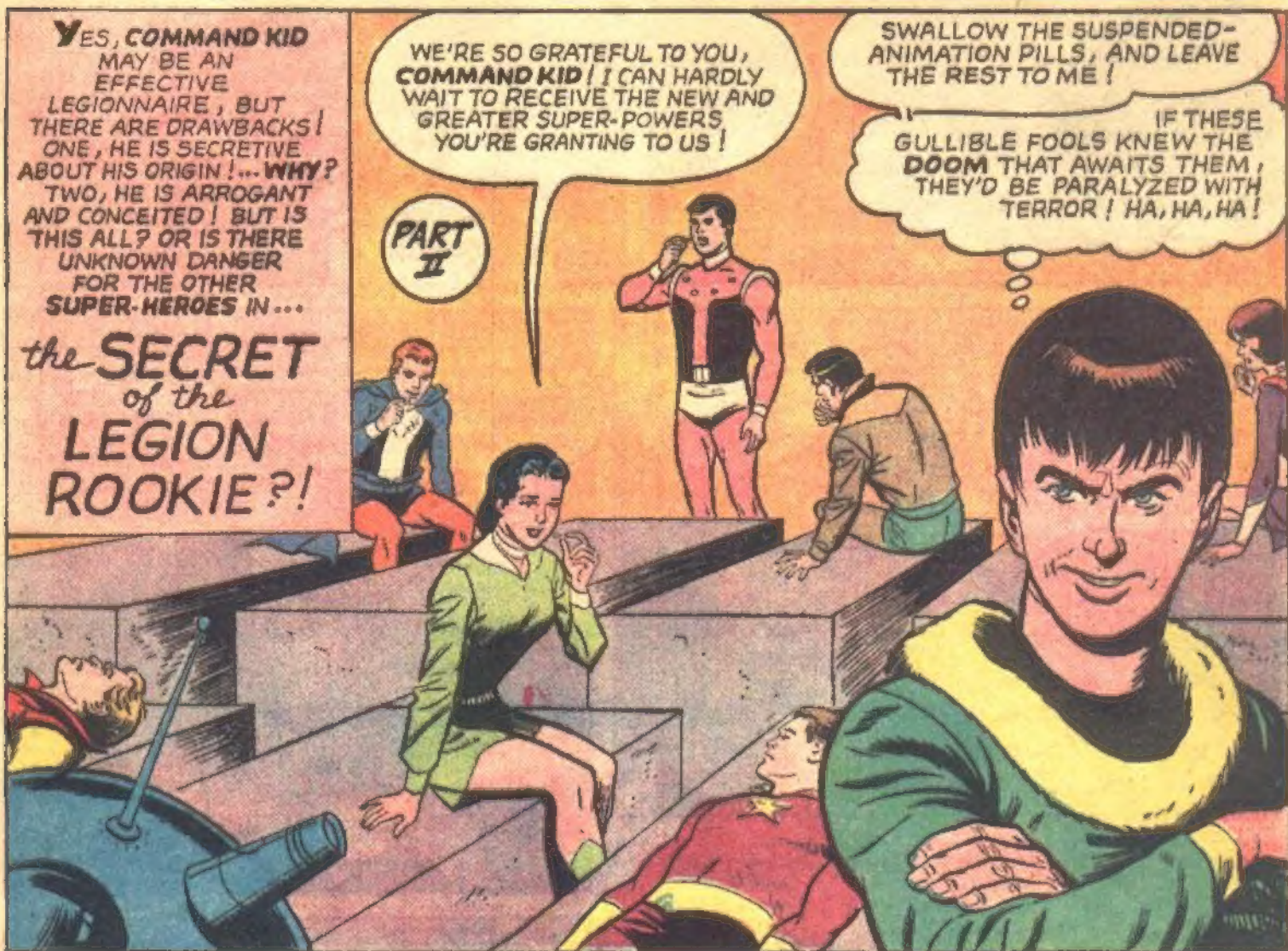
the **SECRET**
of the
LEGION
ROOKIE?!

WE'RE SO GRATEFUL TO YOU, **COMMAND KID**! I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO RECEIVE THE NEW AND GREATER SUPER-POWERS YOU'RE GRANTING TO US!

PART II

SWALLOW THE SUSPENDED-ANIMATION PILLS, AND LEAVE THE REST TO ME!

IF THESE GULLIBLE FOOLS KNEW THE **DOOM** THAT AWAITS THEM, THEY'D BE PARALYZED WITH TERROR! HA, HA, HA!



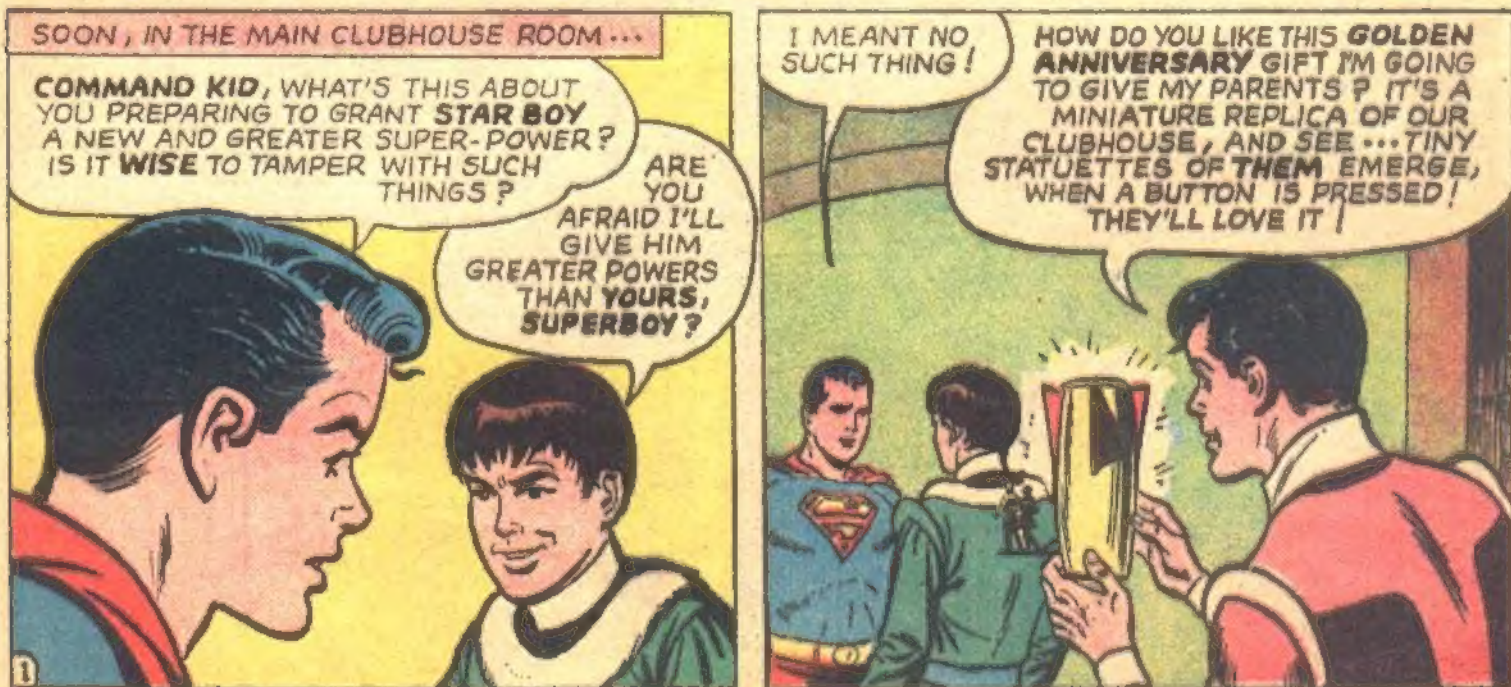
SOON, IN THE MAIN CLUBHOUSE ROOM...

COMMAND KID, WHAT'S THIS ABOUT YOU PREPARING TO GRANT **STAR BOY** A NEW AND GREATER SUPER-POWER? IS IT **WISE** TO TAMPER WITH SUCH THINGS?

ARE YOU AFRAID I'LL GIVE HIM GREATER POWERS THAN YOURS, **SUPERBOY**?

I MEANT NO SUCH THING!

HOW DO YOU LIKE THIS **GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY** GIFT I'M GOING TO GIVE MY PARENTS? IT'S A MINATURE REPLICA OF OUR CLUBHOUSE, AND SEE... **TINY STATUETTES OF THEM** EMERGE, WHEN A BUTTON IS PRESSED! THEY'LL LOVE IT!



SUPER-LEGIONNAIRES... BAH! I'M FED UP WITH YOUR INFANTILE TOYS! PARDON ME IF I STEP OUTSIDE, WHERE THE AIR IS FRESH... AND UNCLUTTERED WITH SCREWBALL NOTIONS!

WHAT'S EATING HIM?

US, I GUESS!

HOW TOUCHY CAN YOU GET?!

LATER, AS PHANTOM GIRL STROLLS WITH COMMAND KID...

SOMETIMES I THINK YOU'RE SORRY YOU JOINED THE LEGION!

THE LEGION IS OKAY... IT'S JUST SOME OF THE MEMBERS THAT BUG ME! I KNOW EVERYBODY BELIEVES THEY'RE GREAT, BUT I THINK THERE'S ROOM FOR A LOT OF IMPROVEMENT IN THEM!

QUICK, PHANTOM GIRL! SOME VILLAINS SEIZED THE ATOMIC GENERATOR PLANT AND HAVE SURROUNDED IT WITH A FORCE-SHIELD! THEY THREATEN TO BLOW IT UP UNLESS EARTH SURRENDERS TO THEM! ONLY YOU CAN PENETRATE THE SHIELD!

EXCUSE ME, BIG-MOUTH, WHILE I RESCUE THIS PLANET!

DEMATERIALIZING, PHANTOM GIRL EASILY PASSES THROUGH THE BARRIER...

PHANTOM GIRL PENETRATED THE FORCE-SHIELD! SHE'S MATERIALIZING INSIDE!

SO WHAT? WHAT'S ONE MERE GIRL AGAINST MANY TOUGH GUYS LIKE US? PULVERIZE HER!

ABRUPTLY... YAAGH! ...MONSTERS ... CRAWLING AND SWOOPING TOWARD US FROM EVERYWHERE! THEY'RE HORRIBLE... UNEARTHLY! LOOK! NOTHING STOPS 'EM!

I'LL TURN OFF THE FORCE-SHIELD! WE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE... UGH! ...THEY GET US!!!

AND, AS THE TERRIFIED PLOTTERS DASH INTO THE WAITING ARMS OF THE SCIENCE POLICE...

HELP US! PROTECT US!

SO! YOU CAUSED THOSE HIDEOUS HALLUCINATIONS TO SCARE THEM INTO DEFEAT! BUT I'D HAVE BEATEN THEM MYSELF IN A FEW MINUTES!

HA, HA! ONCE AGAIN I'VE PROVED THE POWERS OF OTHER LEGIONNAIRES SIMPLY AREN'T IN THE SAME LEAGUE WITH... HA, HA ... MINE !!

SOON, IN THE CLUBHOUSE...

THANKS FOR GIVING ME THE CHANCE TO GET A GREATER SUPER-POWER, LIKE **STAR BOY** WILL! I WANT TO BE IMPROVED, TOO!

JUST SWALLOW THAT SUSPENDED-ANIMATION PILL! YOU'LL ACHIEVE YOUR DESIRE, LATER! BUT DON'T BORE ME WITH YOUR GRATITUDE! I COULDN'T CARE LESS!

LATER THAT DAY...

SAVE **SUPERBOY** FROM THAT, **COMMAND KID**! YOU'RE SO RESOURCEFUL, I'M SURE YOU ...

ULTRA BOY, THOUGH I COULD SAVE **SUPERBOY** EASILY, I'LL BE BIG-HEARTED AND LET YOU RESCUE HIM! DON'T SAY I NEVER DID YOU ANY FAVORS!

SUPER-HERO CLUB HOUSE

I MUST ACT PRONTO!!

...LUP! A **GOLD KRYPTONITE METEOR** IS STREAKING DOWN TOWARD **SUPERBOY** ...AND HE DOESN'T SEE IT! IT'S THE ONE THING THAT CAN REMOVE HIS POWERS PERMANENTLY!

ZOOMING SKYWARD, **ULTRA BOY** SEIZES THE FALLING PERIL...

THANKS, **ULTRA BOY**! I'D HAVE LOST MY POWERS, IF NOT FOR YOU!

I'D FEEL PLEASED, EXCEPT -- I CAN TELL FROM THE SMIRK ON THE FACE OF **COMMAND KID** THAT HE'S LAUGHING AT ME INWARDLY! YET HOW COULD HE HAVE STOPPED THAT METEOR WITH HIS ILLUSION-POWER?

SHORTLY, AS SOME **LEGIONNAIRES** GATHER TOGETHER...

LET'S FACE IT! **COMMAND KID** KEEPS BEATING US TO THE PUNCH... DOING MOST OF THE WORK HIMSELF! THE REST OF US MIGHT AS WELL QUIT!

I HEARD THAT! I CAN UNDERSTAND YOUR ENVY OF ME, BUT YOU NEEDN'T ACT LIKE COMPLETE FOOLS! THERE'S HOPE FOR ALL OF YOU!

SINCE I'M NOT FROM **KRYPTON**, LIKE **SUPERBOY**, THIS CAN'T HARM ME! I'LL TOSS IT LIGHT-YEARS AWAY TO A FAR CORNER OF THE UNIVERSE WHERE **SUPERBOY** WON'T ENCOUNTER IT!

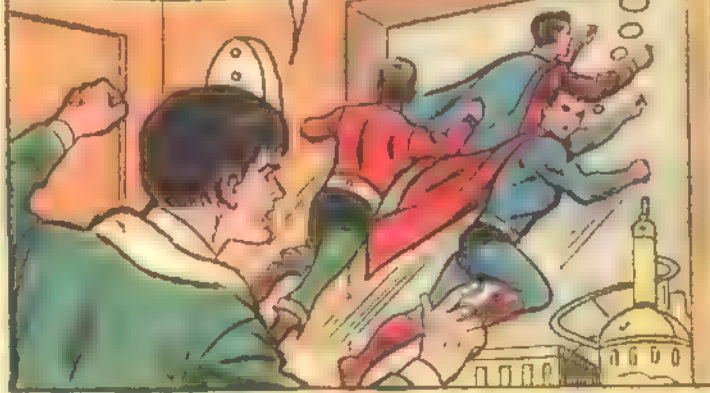


BUT FIRST, I'VE GOT NEWS FOR **SUPERBOY, ULTRA BOY AND MON-EL**! I'VE DISCOVERED THAT ALIENS IN ANOTHER DIMENSION PLAN TO INVADE THIS ONE! YOU THREE CAN STOP THEM!

WHICH DIMENSION? THERE ARE COUNTLESS NUMBERS OF THEM!

DO YOU EXPECT ME TO DO **EVERYTHING** FOR YOU? FIND OUT FOR YOURSELVES, **LEGIONNAIRES**! SHOW SOME INITIATIVE!

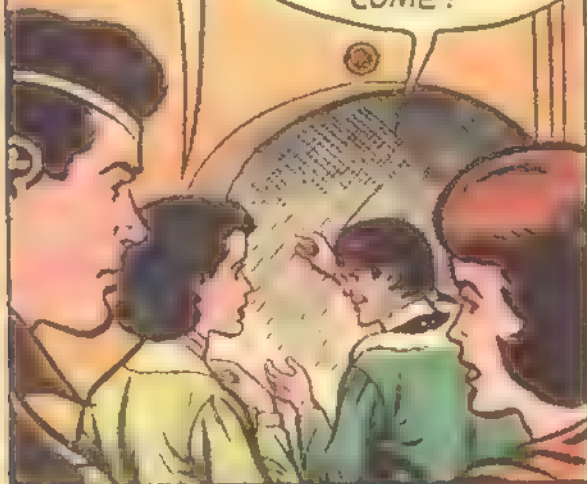
OKAY! WE'LL SHOW THAT CONCEITED GUY WE DON'T **NEED** HIS HELP!



AFTER THE THREE **SUPER-HEROES** FLASH OFF...

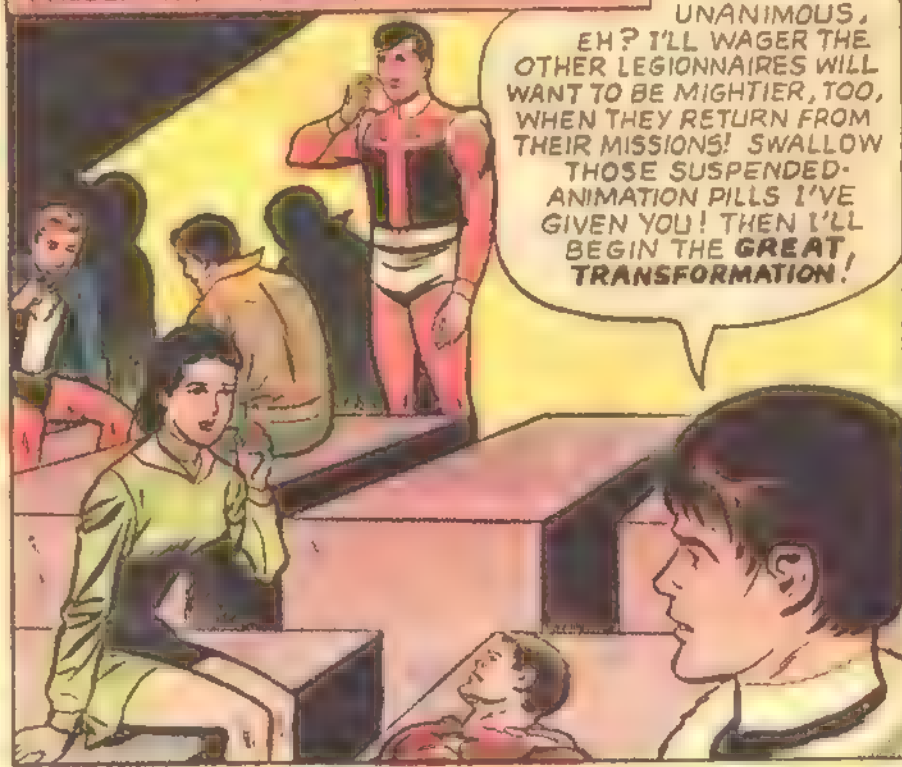
YOU SAID THERE WAS HOPE! DID YOU MEAN YOU CAN GIVE US GREATER SUPER-POWERS, LIKE YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE TO **STAR BOY** AND **SUN BOY**?

EXACTLY! ALL WHO WISH TO BE SUPER-IMPROVED... COME!



PRESENTLY, IN THE MAIN LABORATORY...

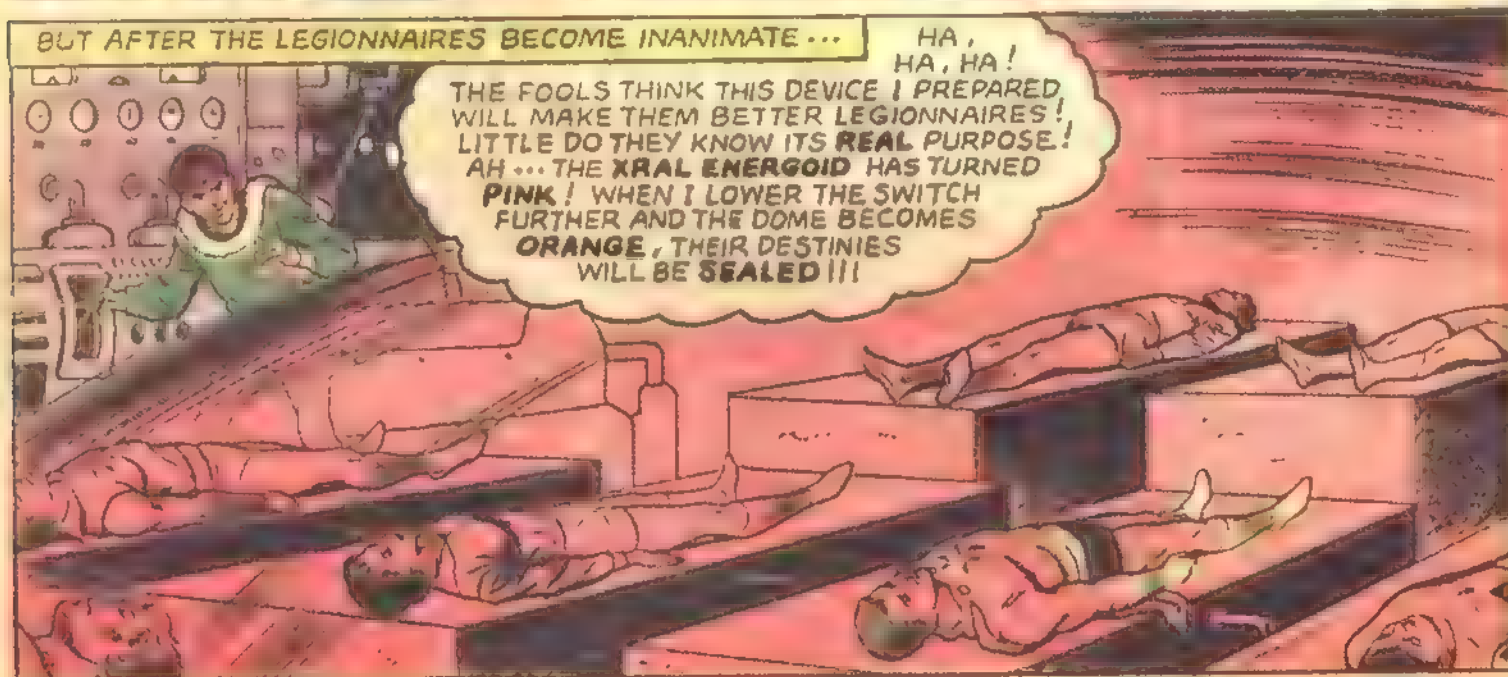
SO IT'S UNANIMOUS, EH? I'LL WAGER THE OTHER **LEGIONNAIRES** WILL WANT TO BE MIGHTIER, TOO, WHEN THEY RETURN FROM THEIR MISSIONS! SWALLOW THOSE SUSPENDED-ANIMATION PILLS I'VE GIVEN YOU! THEN I'LL BEGIN THE **GREAT TRANSFORMATION**!



BUT AFTER THE **LEGIONNAIRES** BECOME INANIMATE...

HA, HA, HA!

THE FOOLS THINK THIS DEVICE I PREPARED WILL MAKE THEM BETTER **LEGIONNAIRES**! LITTLE DO THEY KNOW ITS **REAL PURPOSE**! AH... THE **XRAL ENERGOID** HAS TURNED **PINK**! WHEN I LOWER THE SWITCH FURTHER AND THE DOME BECOMES **ORANGE**, THEIR DESTINIES WILL BE **SEALED**!!!



SUDDENLY...

SATURN GIRL AND ELEMENT LAD! SO YOU'VE RETURNED FROM YOUR SPACE MISSION, EH? SWALLOW THE SUSPENDED-ANIMATION PILLS AND I'LL MAKE YOU A THOUSAND TIMES MORE POWERFUL, LIKE I'M GOING TO DO FOR YOUR COMRADES!

NOW, ELEMENT LAD!!

EE-EEYOWRRR!

I TRANSMUTED THE CONTROL BOARD AND SWITCH, FROM STEEL INTO GOLD!-- HE'S FALLING UNCONSCIOUS!

THEN AS THE UNCONSCIOUS FORM TWISTS...

I'VE TURNED OFF THE DIABOLICAL MACHINE! NOW TO MAKE OUR COMRADES ANIMATE AGAIN!

HERE'S THE CHEMICAL MIXTURE WE'LL NEED FOR THAT!

AND AS THE DUPED LEGIONNAIRES ARE REVIVED...

YOU MEAN **COMMAND KID** WAS A VILLAIN, AND YOU SAVED US FROM HIM?

IN A WAY, YES! I'LL EXPLAIN!

"**ELEMENT LAD** AND I WERE RETURNING TOWARD EARTH IN OUR SPACE SHIP, WHEN I TUNED OUR MONITOR IN ON THE CLUBHOUSE TO SEE WHAT WAS HAPPENING DURING OUR ABSENCE..."

SO THERE'S A NEW LEGIONNAIRE NAMED **COMMAND KID** AND HE'S GOING TO GIVE OUR FRIENDS NEW, GREATER POWERS!

WAIT! NOW THAT THE OTHERS ARE INANIMATE AND HE THINKS NO ONE IS WATCHING, HE'S SNEERING AT THEM VICIOUSLY! ...I CAN'T READ HIS MIND! HE MUST HAVE SHIELDED IT AGAINST TELEPATHS LIKE MYSELF!

WE'D BETTER CHECK THE MONITOR-TAPE, FAST, BEFORE HE FINISHES USING THAT MACHINE!

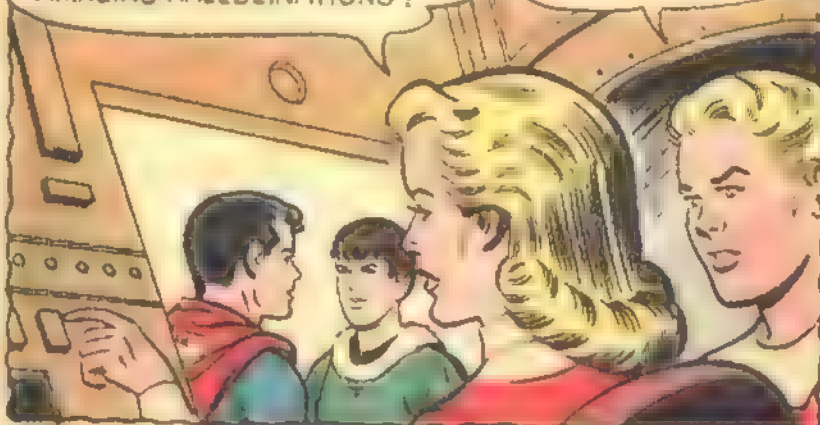
AS YOU KNOW, OUR MONITORS CAN TAPE SCENES, EVEN THOUGH WE MAY NOT BE WATCHING THE SET... SCENES WHICH CAN BE PLAYED BACK, LATER. FORTUNATELY, I'D SET THE MECHANISM SO IT TAPED WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU WHILE WE WERE BUSY ON OUR MISSION.



"QUICKLY, WE CHECKED WHAT HAPPENED SINCE YOU FIRST ENCOUNTERED THE LEGION ROOKIE..."

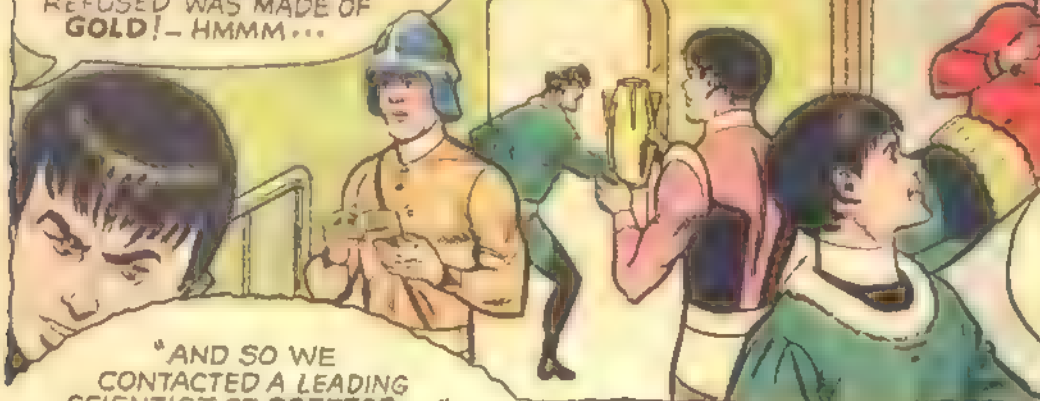
HE SAID HE'S FROM THE PLANET PREZTOR AND HE CAN CREATE AMAZING HALLUCINATIONS!

SPEED UP THE TAPE! IT'S MOST URGENT!



"SINCE WE WERE ALERTED TO COMMAND KID'S REAL CHARACTER, WE NOTICED SOMETHING YOU OTHERS OVERLOOKED..."

THE **ARM-BAND** AWARD HE REFUSED WAS MADE OF **GOLD!**— HMMM...



SO WAS THAT **GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY GIFT** HE HURRIED AWAY FROM!... AND THE **GOLD KRYPTONITE METEOR** HE AVOIDED CONTACTING! ...I THINK WE'VE COME ACROSS A **CLUE**... AND PERHAPS IT'S CONNECTED WITH HIS **ORIGIN**, WHICH HE REFUSED TO DISCUSS!

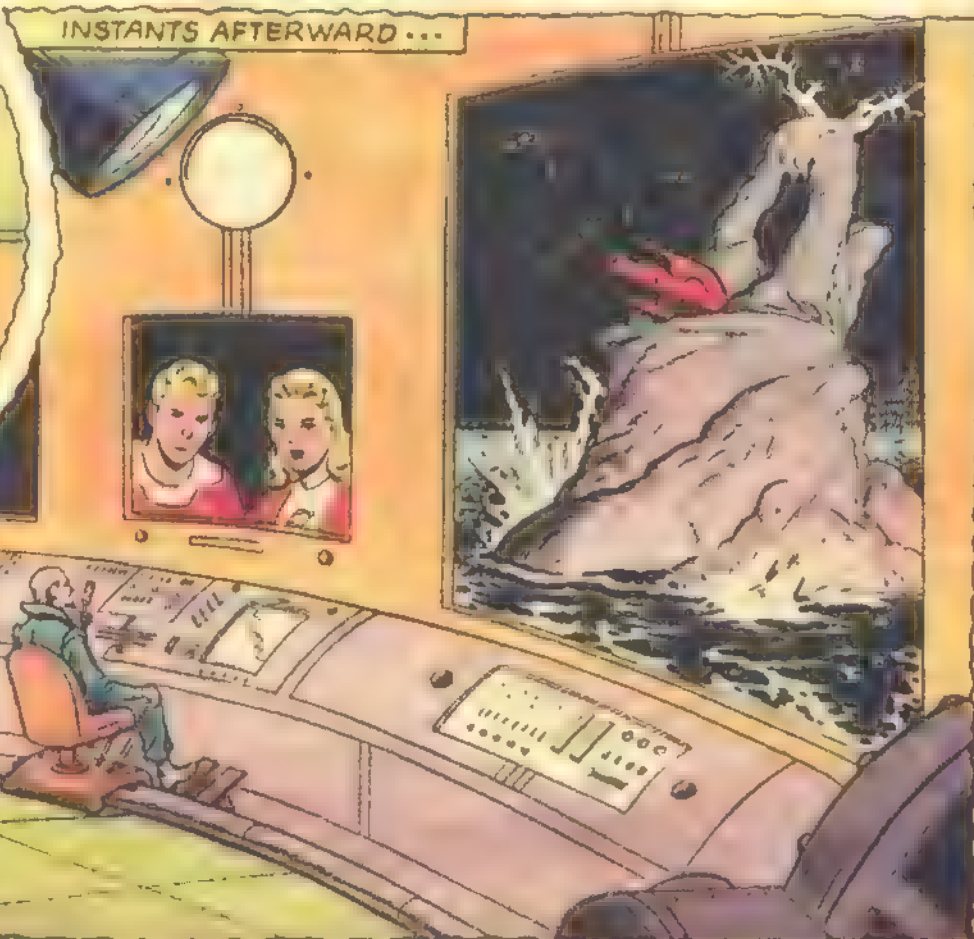
"AND SO WE CONTACTED A LEADING SCIENTIST OF **PREZTOR**..."

YOUR **GOLD CLUE** IS SIGNIFICANT, **SATURN GIRL**! LET ME DO SOME CHECKING! I'LL REPORT BACK PROMPTLY!



INSTANTS AFTERWARD ...

HELLO, LEGION CRAFT!—I'VE DISCOVERED VIA **SATELLITE-EYE** THAT A ROCKET-CRAFT OWNED BY A **PREZTORIAN** YOUTH RESEMBLING THE BOY YOU DESCRIBE CRASHLANDED ON A **TABOO ISLE** ON **PREZTOR**! THE ISLE IS OFF-LIMITS BECAUSE A MOUNTAIN ON IT IS INHABITED BY **EVIL DEMONS**!



WE KNOW FROM PAST EXPERIENCE THAT THE BODIES OF THOSE WHO APPROACH THE MOUNTAIN BECAME OCCUPIED BY THE DIABOLICAL SPIRITS! THE ONLY THING THAT CAN FREE A **POSSESSED ONE** IS **GOLD**... AN ELEMENT WHICH EXISTS IN ONLY MINUTE QUANTITIES HERE!



NOW WE KNOW WHY **COMMAND KID** AVOIDED THE **GOLD**! THE DEMON OCCUPYING HIS BODY KNEW **GOLD** COULD VANQUISH IT! **ELEMENT LAD**, WE'VE GOT TO STREAK TO THE CLUBHOUSE VIA SPACE WARP! I PRAY WE'LL GET THERE IN TIME!



AND AS **SATURN GIRL** FINISHES HER ACCOUNT...

WHAT YOU SAY IS SO INCREDIBLE I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE IT!

GET IT? THE EVIL DEMON HAD **COMMAND KID** COME TO EARTH SO HE COULD TRICK YOU INTO PERMITTING THE TRANSFER OF OTHER DEMONS INTO YOUR BODIES! BECAUSE OF YOUR SUPER-POWERS, HE NEEDED TO FIRST RENDER YOU INANIMATE, THEN USE THAT DOME-DEVICE, TO ACCOMPLISH HIS GOAL!



ONCE THERE, IT'LL BE UP TO ME!!

ONCE WE SUPER-HEROES WERE TAKEN OVER BY EVIL SPIRITS, NO ONE COULD STOP THE DEMONS FROM CONQUERING THE UNIVERSE! **COMMAND KID** MUST HAVE SENT **SUPERBOY**, **MON-EL** AND **ULTRA BOY** OFF, BECAUSE THEY WERE THE MOST POWERFUL! HE'D HAVE HAD DEMON-LEGIIONNAIRES GANG UP ON THEM LATER!

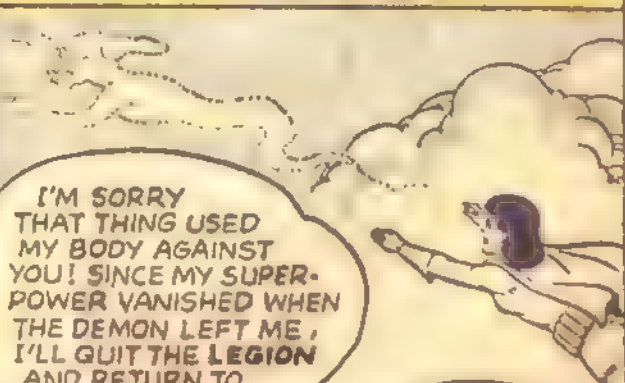


(GASP!) — A HORRID, EVIL DEMON IS REARING UP OUT OF THE UNCONSCIOUS BODY OF **COMMAND KID**! IT'S SNARLING IN BAFFLEMENT!

THE **GOLD** IS EXORCISING THE **THING** OUT OF **COMMAND KID'S** BODY! IN A WAY, THIS IS REMINISCENT OF THE WAY **SILVER** BULLETS WERE REPUTED TO DEFEAT LEGENDARY WERE-WOLVES!



SHORTLY, AS **COMMAND KID** REVIVES...



I'M SORRY THAT THING USED MY BODY AGAINST YOU! SINCE MY SUPER-POWER VANISHED WHEN THE DEMON LEFT ME, I'LL QUIT THE LEGION AND RETURN TO **PREZTOR**!

THAT EVIL SPIRIT IS STREAKING UP TOWARD SPACE! **PHANTOM GIRL** IS FOLLOWING, TO KEEP AN EYE ON IT! I'M AFRAID WE HAVEN'T SEEN THE LAST OF THAT "THING"... OR ITS KIND!



SUPERBOY

A
HALL OF FAME
CLASSIC

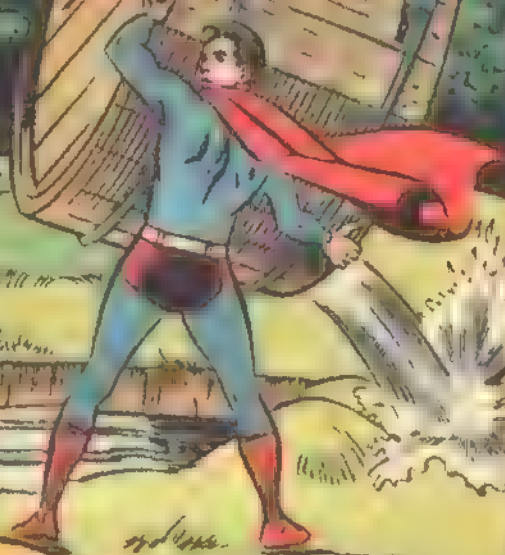
WHAT IS THE
GREATEST AND BEST-
KEPT SECRET ON
EARTH? YOU ALL KNOW
THE ANSWER TO THAT--
**SUPERBOY'S
DOUBLE IDENTITY!**

IT IS A SECRET KNOWN
ONLY TO TWO PEOPLE
IN THE WORLD BESIDES
SUPERBOY HIMSELF--
HIS FOSTER PARENTS,
MR. & MRS. KENT!
BUT HOLD ON... DOES
SOME **THIRD PERSON**
KNOW THIS VITAL SECRET?
SO IT SEEMS AS CLARK
KENT IS LED THROUGH
A MAZE OF MYSTERY
THAT LEAVES HIM
GASPING WHEN HE
MEETS...

THE MAN who
KNEW
SUPERBOY'S
IDENTITY!

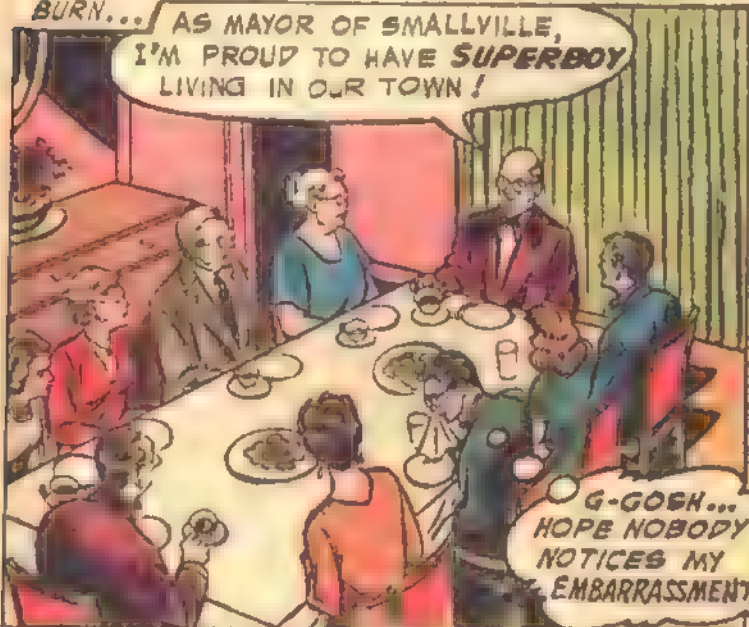
EMPTY
THAT POND,
SUPERBOY, AND
NO BACK TALK! OBEY
"THE MASK", OR I WILL
EXPOSE YOU AS
CLARK KENT!

Y-YES,
S-SIR!





AT DINNER PARTIES GIVEN BY HIS FOSTER PARENTS, YOUNG CLARK KENT'S EARS OFTEN BURN...



AS MAYOR OF SMALLVILLE, I'M PROUD TO HAVE **SUPERBOY** LIVING IN OUR TOWN!

G-GOSH... HOPE NOBODY NOTICES MY EMBARRASSMENT!

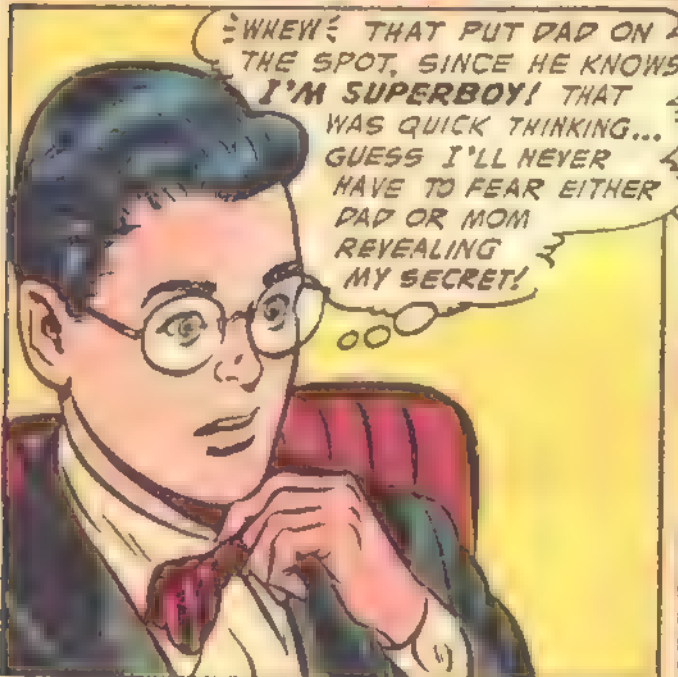
BUT LATER, THE CONVERSATION TAKES A STILL MORE UNCOMFORTABLE TURN...



BUT JUST WHO **IS SUPERBOY**? HIS OTHER IDENTITY?... DOES ANYBODY HAVE ANY IDEA? HOW ABOUT YOU, MR. KENT?

ER... WHY ASK ME, PROFESSOR? WHO CAN REALLY SAY?

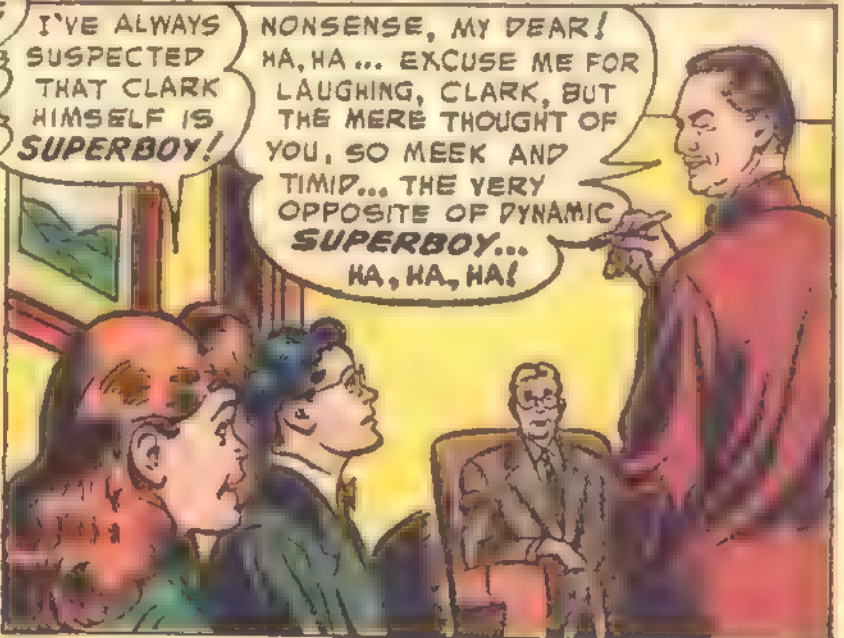
WHEW! THAT PUT DAD ON THE SPOT, SINCE HE KNOWS I'M **SUPERBOY**! THAT WAS QUICK THINKING... GUESS I'LL NEVER HAVE TO FEAR EITHER DAD OR MOM REVEALING MY SECRET!



INEVITABLY, LANA LANG AIRS HER OWN PET THEORY...

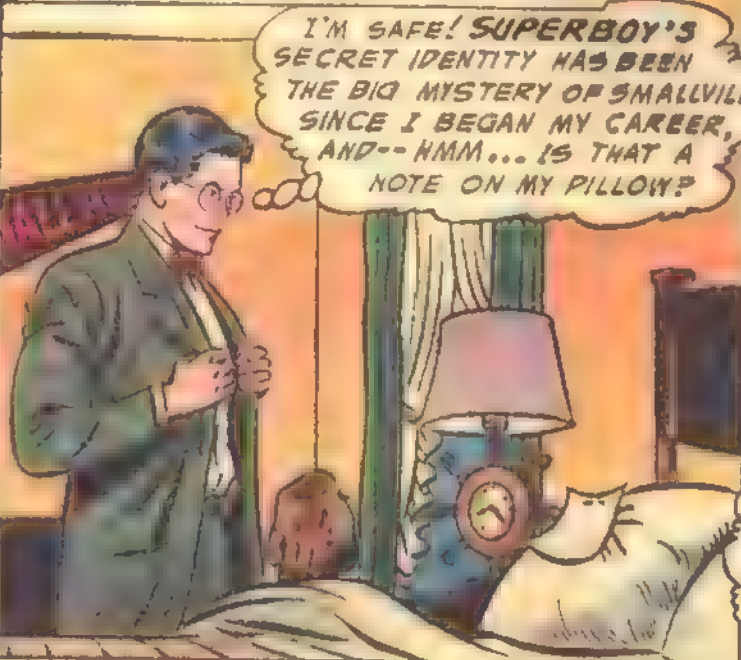
I'VE ALWAYS SUSPECTED THAT CLARK HIMSELF IS **SUPERBOY**!

NONSENSE, MY DEAR! HA, HA... EXCUSE ME FOR LAUGHING, CLARK, BUT THE MERE THOUGHT OF YOU, SO MEEK AND TIMID... THE VERY OPPOSITE OF DYNAMIC **SUPERBOY**... HA, HA, HA!



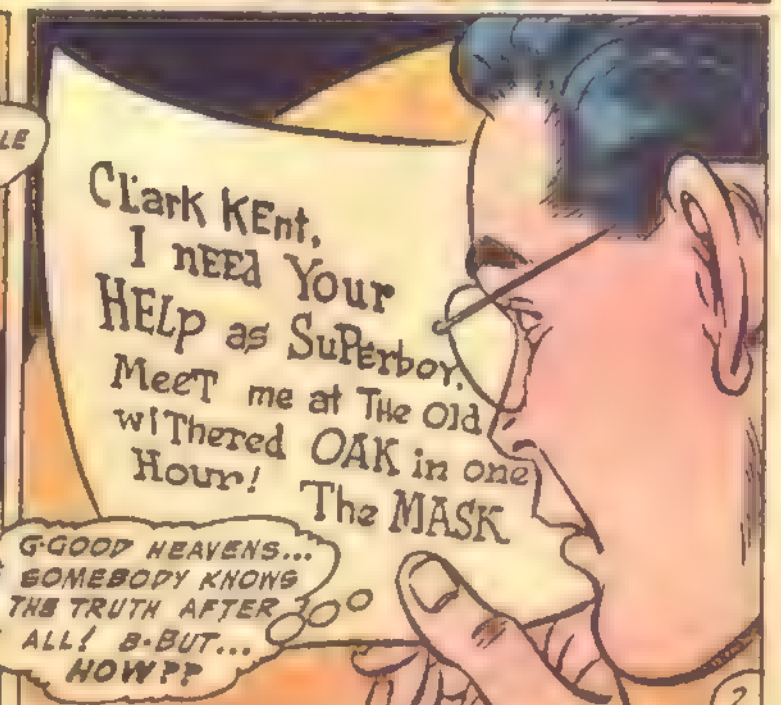
AT BEDTIME, WITH THE PARTY OVER...

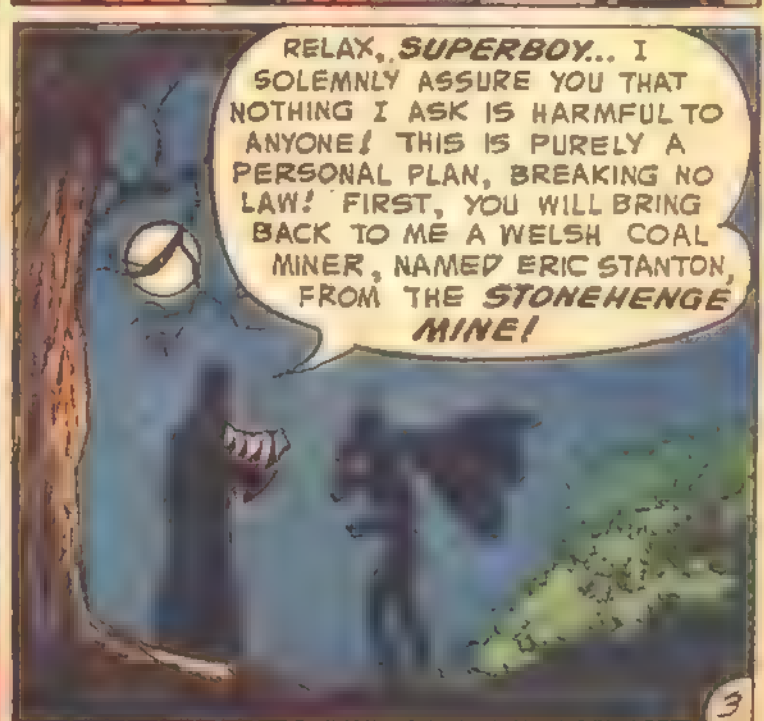
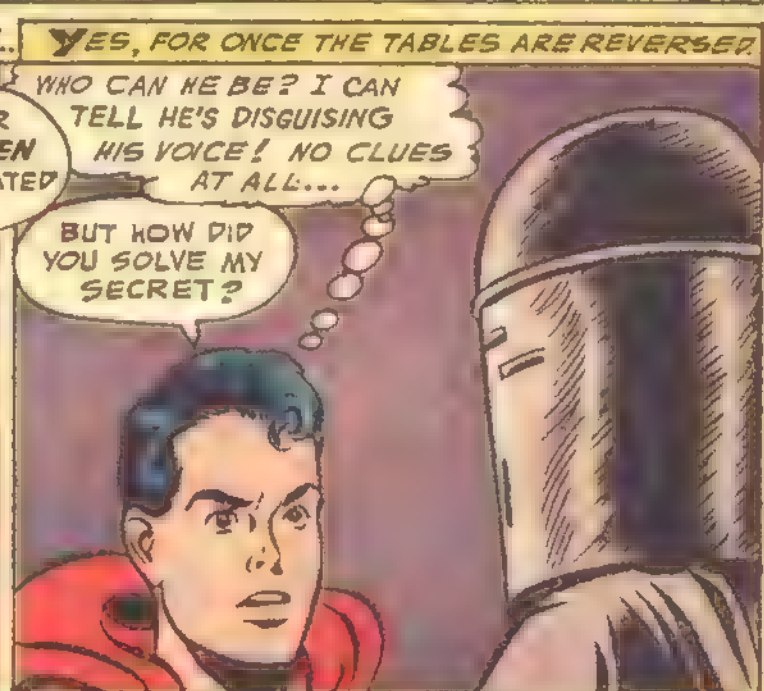
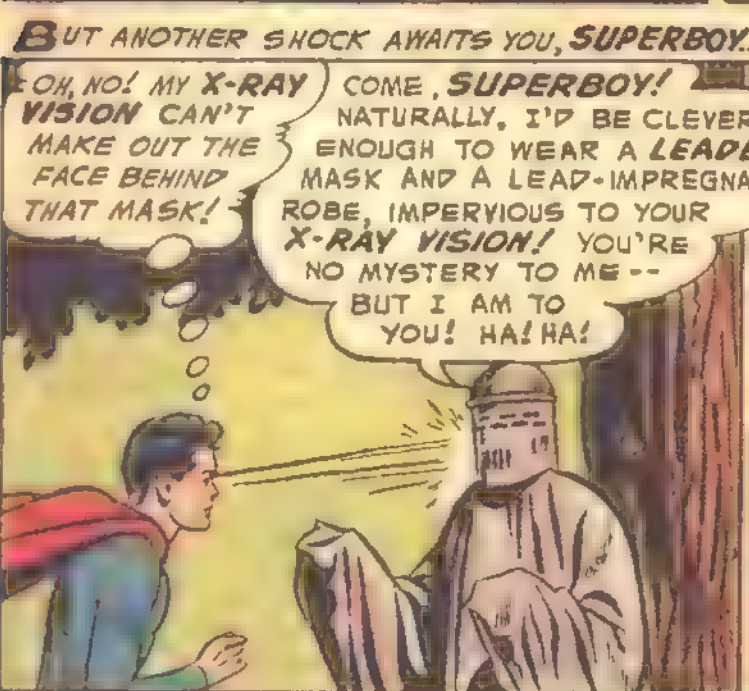
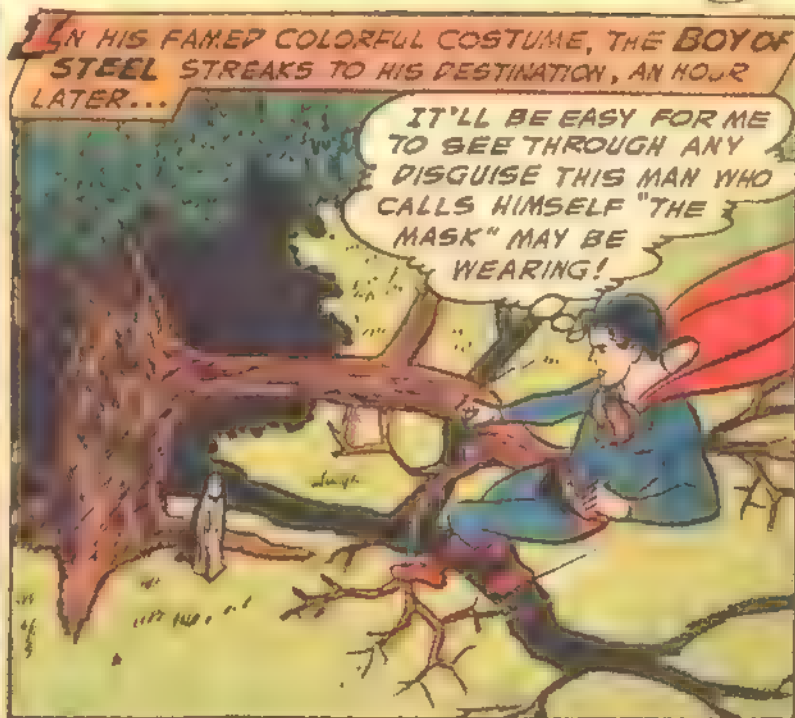
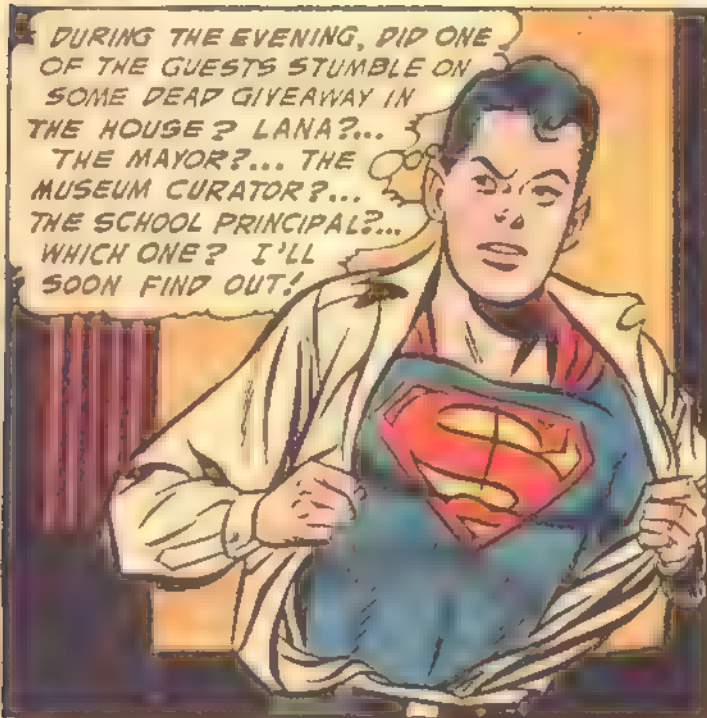
I'M SAFE! **SUPERBOY'S** SECRET IDENTITY HAS BEEN THE BIG MYSTERY OF SMALLVILLE SINCE I BEGAN MY CAREER, AND-- HMM... IS THAT A NOTE ON MY PILLOW?

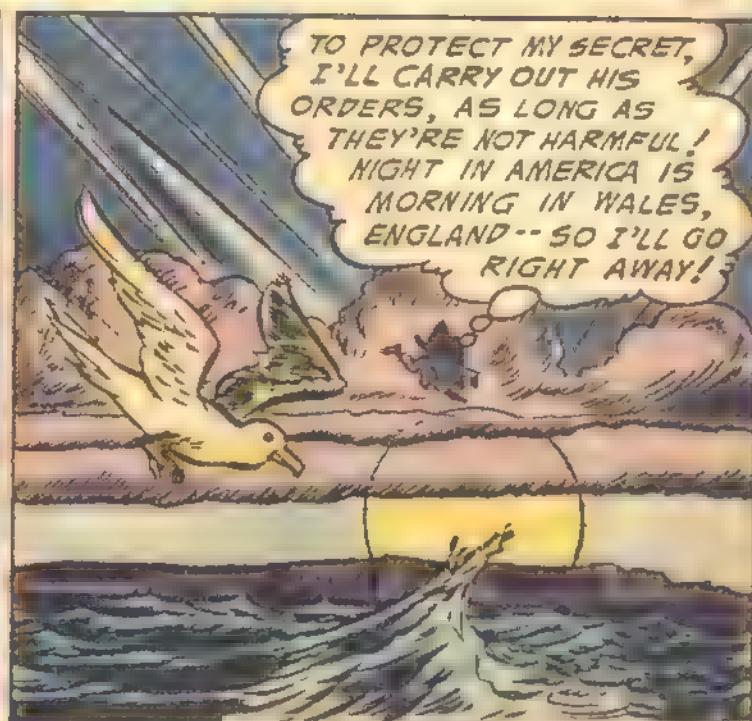
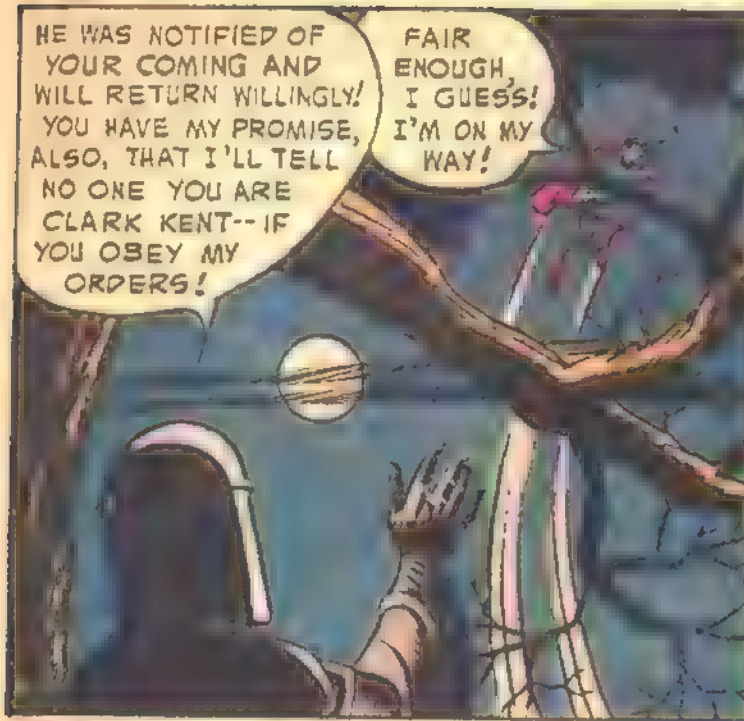


Clark Kent,
I need Your
HELP as **SUPERBOY**.
Meet me at The Old
Withered OAK in one
Hour! The MASK

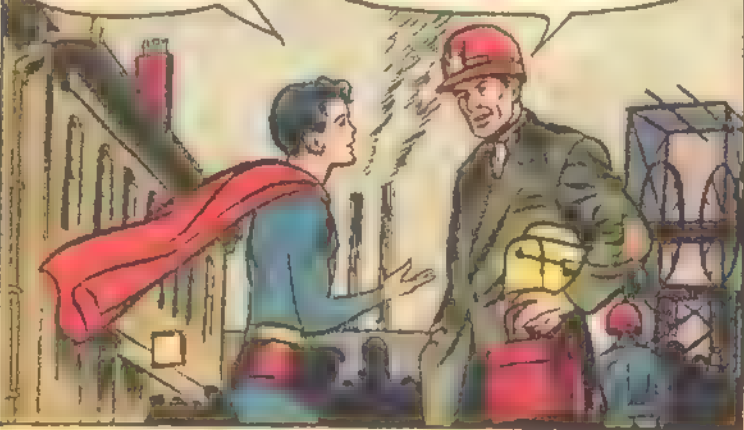
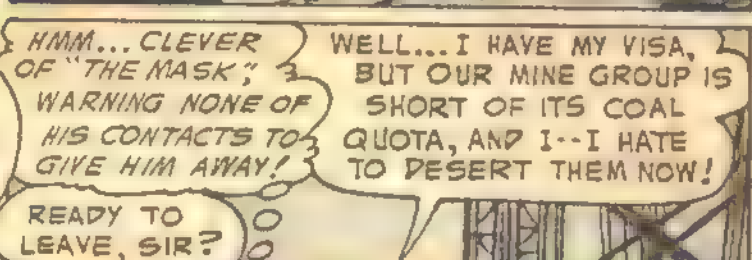
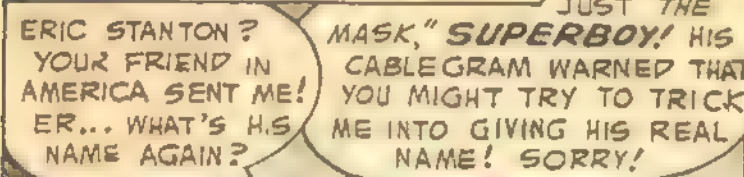
G-GOOD HEAVENS... SOMEBODY KNOWS THE TRUTH AFTER ALL! B-BUT... HOW??







WITHIN MINUTES, THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY, SUPERBOY FINDS HIS MAN...

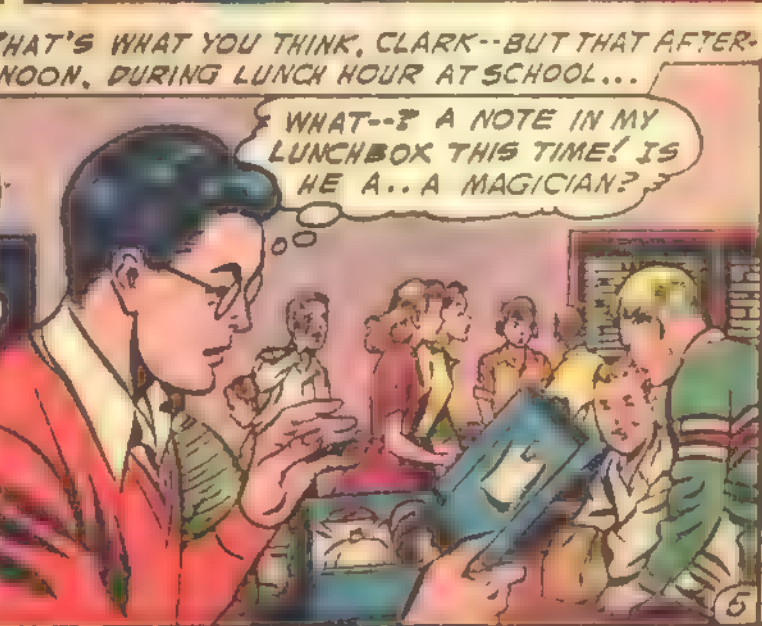
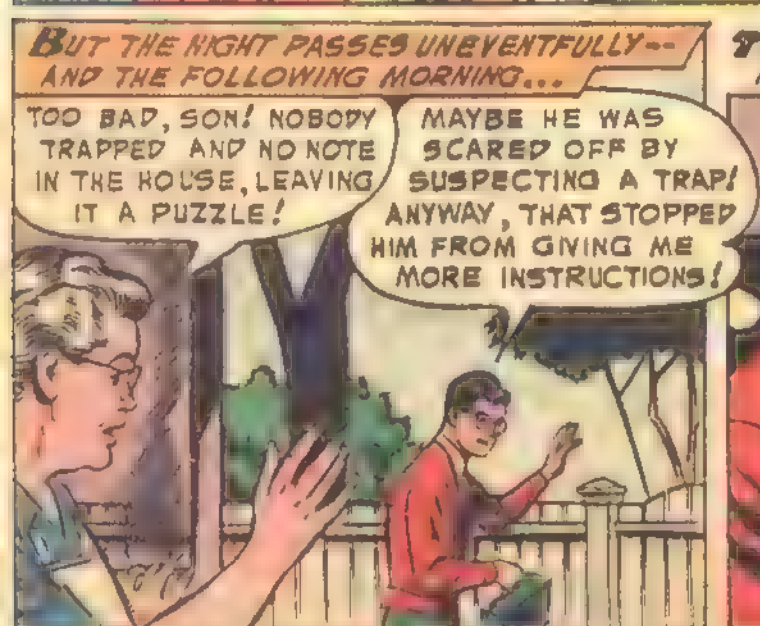
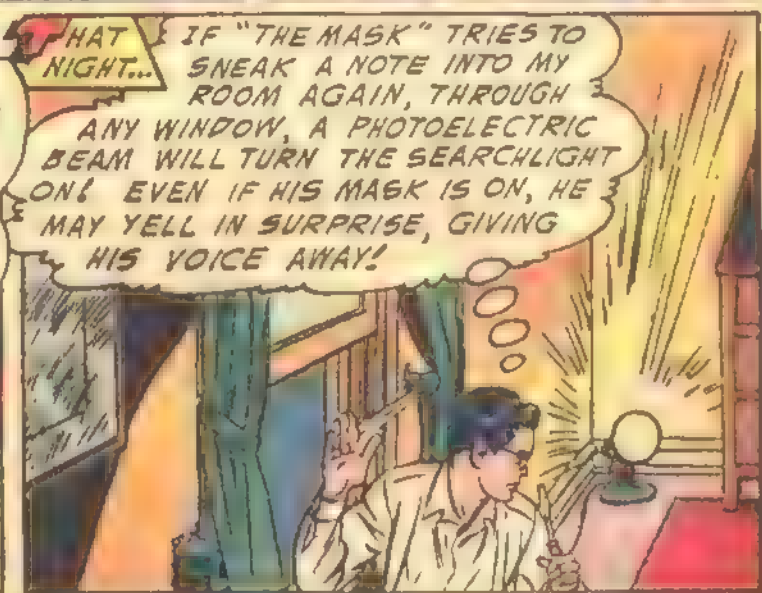
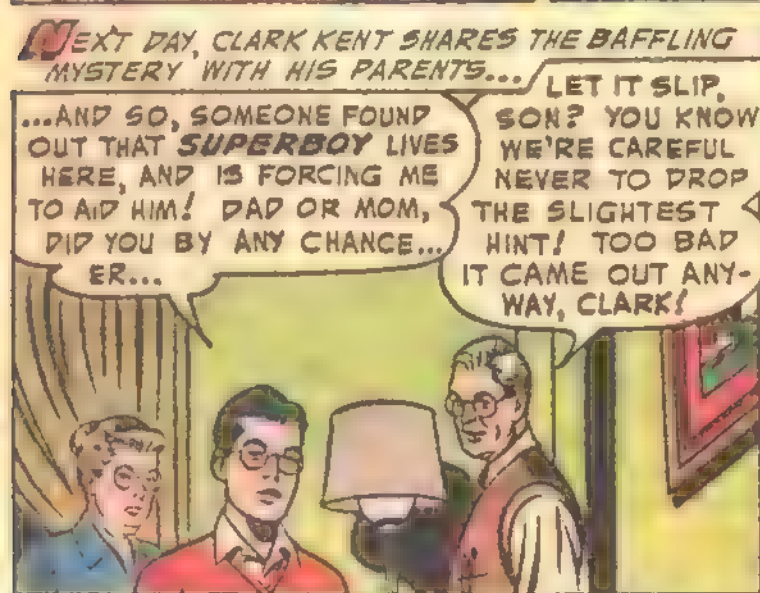
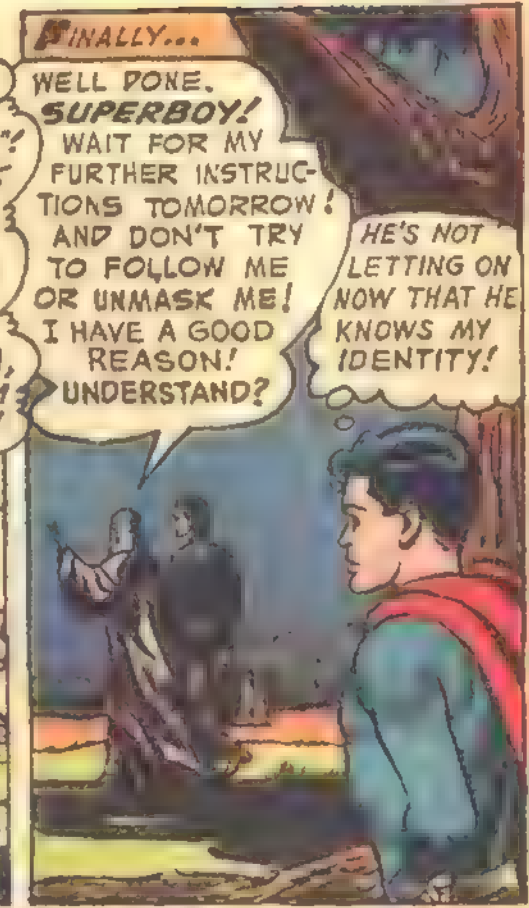


SO IT'S UP TO SUPERBOY TO LEND A HELPING HAND DOWN IN THE MINE...



ONE MIGHTY SUPER-BLOW DOES THE DAY'S WORK OF 100 HANDPICKS!







NEXT TASK, **SUPERBOY**-CONSTRUCT THE FOLLOWING LETTERS, IN THE NUMBERS INDICATED, ONE FOOT HIGH AND OF A HARD, BRIGHT SUBSTANCE. The MASK

A...3
B...1
C...1
D...1
E...1
H...2
I...1
J...1

K...2
L...1
N...1
P...2
Q...1
R...2
T...2
Y...2
Z...1

GOOD GRIEF! WHAT COULD HE WANT WITH ALL THOSE GIANT LETTERS? MAYBE TO SIGNAL AN ACCOMPLICE? Hmm... PERHAPS BY FIGURING OUT WHAT MESSAGE HE'S TRYING TO SEND, I CAN LEARN WHAT HE'S UP TO!

At **SUPER-SPEED**, CLARK TRIES OUT EVERY POSSIBLE WORD COMBINATION --BUT...

NO MATTER HOW MANY WORDS I COME UP WITH, EXTRA LETTERS ARE LEFT OVER! I CAN'T CRACK IT!

DAY... CATER... ZEBRA.
KITTY... BIRTH...

WHAT CRYPTIC MESSAGE DO THE LETTERS CONTAIN? CAN YOU GUESS?

AFTERWARD, AS **SUPERBOY** CARRIES OUT THE NEW COMMAND...

FIRST, SINCE I CAN PICK MY OWN MATERIALS, THIS ABANDONED PIT OF WET CLAY WILL DO NICELY! IT'LL DRY QUICKLY IN THOSE ALPHABET FORMS I CUT IN THAT CLIFF!

A D I L R
A E J N T
A H K P Y
A H K P Y
C L Q Z

SOON... I'LL GET PLENTY OF BRIGHT COLORS FROM THESE WILD FLOWERS I PICKED! BY BLOWING THE PETALS WITH MY **SUPER-BREATH**, I'LL EMBED THEM FIRMLY IN THE WET CLAY BEFORE IT DRIES!

FINALLY...

THIS LENS I FUSED OUT OF BROKEN GLASS, WITH **SUPER-PRESSURE**, WILL BAKE THE CLAY, UNDER CONCENTRATED SUNBEAMS, AND GLAZE THE SURFACE TO SHINY HARDNESS!

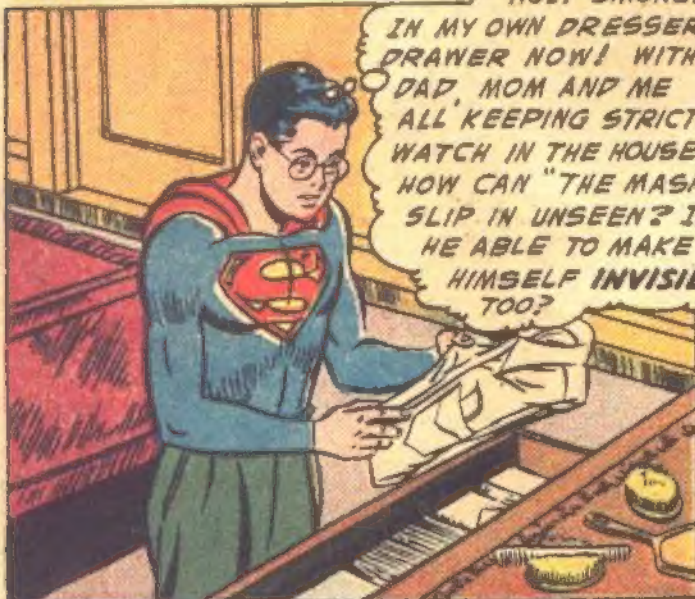
A H
P Q R T
Y Z

A WHILE LATER, BACK AT THE ORIGINAL MEETING PLACE...

SUPERBOY LEAVE THE LETTERS HERE!

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THIS LEADING UP TO? SOME CONTEST OR GAME? AND WHERE WILL THE NEXT NOTE POP UP?

IN A STILL MORE UNEXPECTED PLACE, SUPERBOY! FOR UPON AWAKENING, THE FOLLOWING MORNING...



AND AS HE STARTS OUT ON HIS NEXT "MASK" MISSION,



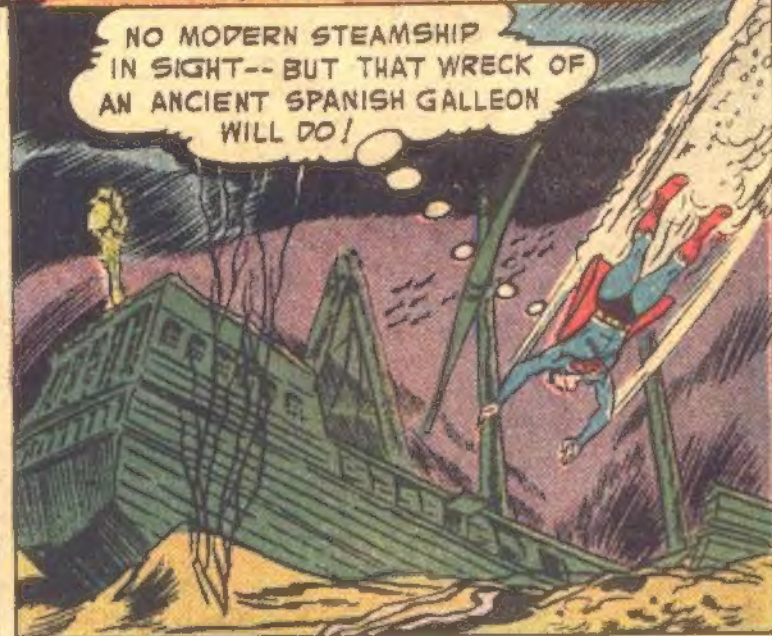
SUPERBOY! WE LOST THE SCREW-PROPELLER THAT DRIVES THIS SHIP! WE RADIOED FOR AID, BUT THE NEAREST VESSEL WILL TAKE HOURS TO REACH US!

RADIO THEM TO RESUME COURSE! I'LL MAKE YOU A NEW PROPELLER MYSELF!



NEXT INSTANT, AT THE OCEAN'S BOTTOM...

NO MODERN STEAMSHIP IN SIGHT-- BUT THAT WRECK OF AN ANCIENT SPANISH GALLEON WILL DO!



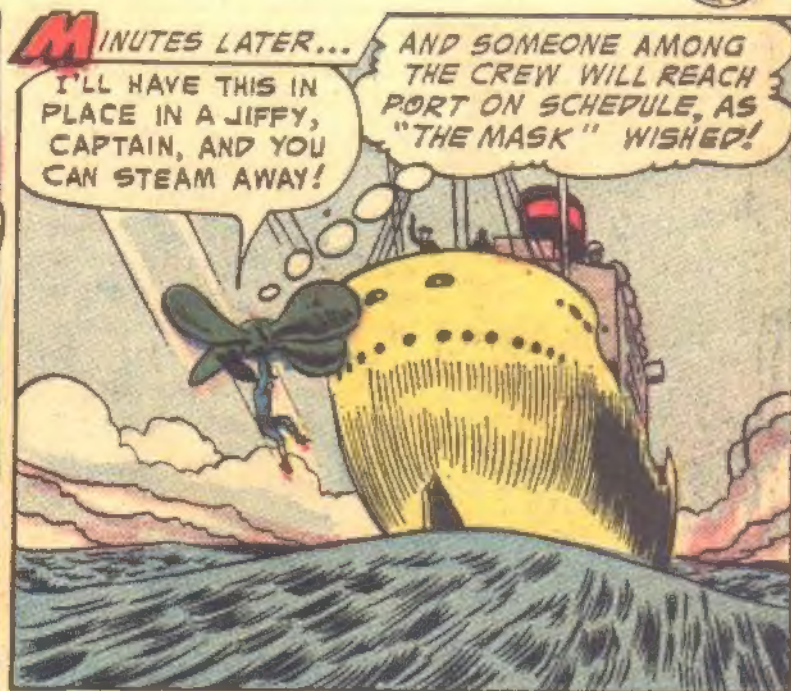
THIS OLD ANCHOR AND CHAINS WILL FURNISH PLENTY OF SCRAP METAL TO MELT DOWN INTO A PROPELLER, AT THE NEAREST ISLAND!



A VOLCANIC ISLAND SOON BECOMES SUPERBOY'S SUPER-FOUNDRY!

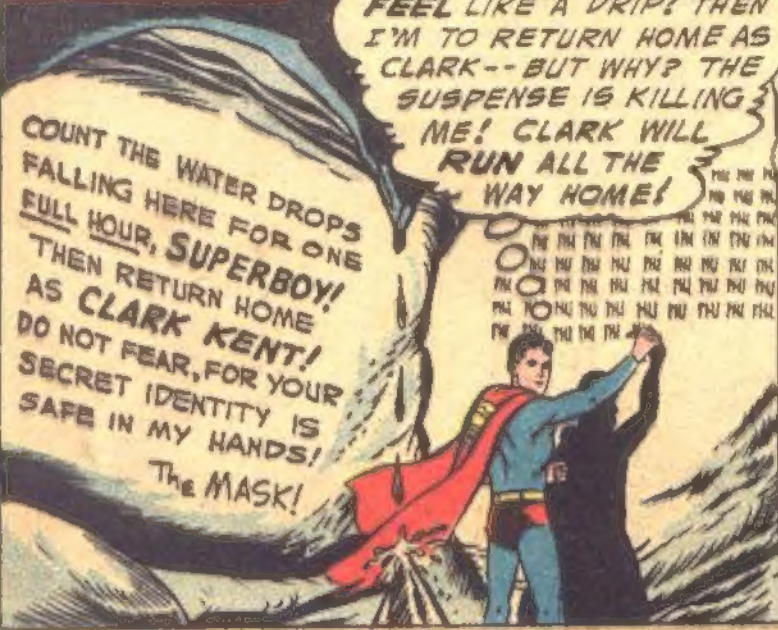
A BATH IN MOLTEN LAVA WILL HEAT THE IRON RED HOT, TURNING IT SOFT!







AND IN NEARBY CRYSTAL CAVE...



WHAT A SILLY JOB, COUNTING DRIPS! I FEEL LIKE A DRIP! THEN I'M TO RETURN HOME AS CLARK-- BUT WHY? THE SUSPENSE IS KILLING ME! CLARK WILL RUN ALL THE WAY HOME!

COUNT THE WATER DROPS FALLING HERE FOR ONE FULL HOUR, SUPERBOY! THEN RETURN HOME AS CLARK KENT! DO NOT FEAR, FOR YOUR SECRET IDENTITY IS SAFE IN MY HANDS! The MASK!

AN HOUR LATER, ROUNDING THE FINAL CORNER, WHAT IS IT THAT BRINGS AN INCREDULOUS GASP FROM CLARK?...

OH... NO! I WAS SO BUSY, I COMPLETELY FORGOT WHAT DAY THIS IS! SO THAT'S IT!

SURPRISE!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY CLARK KENT

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU, HAPPY BIRTHDAY...

A SURPRISE BIRTHDAY PARTY! NOW I KNOW WHO "THE MASK" IS, TOO! IT WAS SO SIMPLE!

SIMPLE? THEN PERHAPS YOU, READER, CAN FIGURE IT OUT, TOO!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SON, FROM-- "THE MASK"!

DAD! IT WAS AN INSIDE JOB ALL THE TIME! WHO ELSE COULD KNOW MY DOUBLE IDENTITY, EXCEPT DAD AND MOM? YET IT WAS THE ONE OBVIOUS SOLUTION I DIDN'T THINK OF!



IN HONOR OF THE OCCASION, WE WANTED TO MAKE THIS A GRAND FAMILY REUNION FOR YOUR BIRTHDAY, CLARK! MEET COUSIN ERIC STANTON FROM WALES-- AND COUSIN ALBERT CRANE, OF THE MINER AND THE SEAMAN-- MY COUSINS!

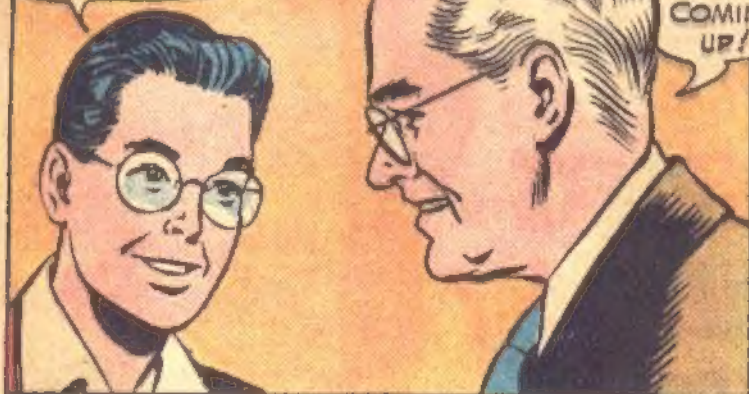
THE WELSH COAL

LATER, WHEN FATHER AND SON ARE ALONE...

HOW CLEVER OF YOU, DAD, USING ME AS **SUPERBOY** TO GET THEM HERE! NEVER HAVING MET THEM BEFORE, I DIDN'T KNOW THEIR NAMES!

AND IT ADDED TO THE SEEMINGLY SECRET PLAN OF "THE MASK", KEEPING YOU TOO BUSY THINKING OF THAT TO REMEMBER YOUR BIRTHDAY COMING UP!

AND IT WAS SO EASY FOR YOU AND MOM TO SLIP ME THOSE NOTES ON MY PILLOW-- IN MY LUNCH BOX, DRESSER--AND IN YOUR OWN SAFE, DAD! AS FOR THAT STRANGE "MESSAGE", I COULDN'T CRACK IT, OF COURSE, BECAUSE...



... YOU HAD ME MAKE THESE **EXTRA** ONES THAT DIDN'T FIT, SO I COULDN'T WORK OUT THE MESSAGE-- **HAPPY BIRTHDAY CLARK KENT!** THAT THREW ME OFF!

AHEM! SO I OUTWITTED EVEN **SUPERBOY**, EH?

YOU SEE, IT WAS THE ONLY POSSIBLE WAY TO MAKE IT A REAL **SURPRISE** ON YOU, CLARK-- BY TRICKING **SUPERBOY** INTO BEING AWAY AT TIMES, FOR ALL OUR SECRET PREPARATIONS! FORGIVE US, SON?

FORGIVE YOU? WHY, TH-THIS IS THE **HAPPIEST BIRTHDAY** I EVER HAD! THANKS, DAD AND MOM ... Y-YOU'RE **SUPER PARENTS!**



WHEW! FOR A WHILE, DAD CERTAINLY HAD ME WORRIED ABOUT MY SECRET IDENTITY BEING KNOWN! BUT IT SURE WAS WORTH IT, FOR THIS **SUPER BIRTHDAY PARTY!**

CHOKE! I JUST REMEMBERED... THE FINAL COUNT WAS 5,632 DROPS OF WATER PER HOUR FALLING IN **CRYSTAL CAVE!** BUT THAT JOB WAS ONLY TO MAKE ME KILL TIME AS **SUPERBOY**, TILL THE PARTY WAS READY! I WOULD THINK OF THAT!



THE END